5. Disease monitoring, containment and alerting across international borders.
6. Training of scientists by its various centres has been beneficial in the form of indirect benefit to the farmers.

Effect of subsidy given by developed countries to farmers

† 364. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2374, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 13th December, 2002 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the subsidy being given by America and other developed countries to their farmers on a large scale in agriculture sector is against the agreement with World Trade Organisation;

(b) if so, whether the subsidy by these countries could not be banned through World Trade Organisation; and

(c) it so, the future planning of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Agreement on Agriculture of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) provides the rules and disciplines on, *inter alia,* domestic support and export subsidies, in respect of the agricultural products or groups of products by each WTO Member, including the United States. Accordingly, the United States is not authorized by the WTO agreements to provide subsidies in excess of the budgetary outlays and quantity commitment levels specified in its Schedule in favour of its domestic producers or exporters. In case any WTO Member perceive that any other WTO Member has failed to implement the rule and disciplines of the WTO agreements or has exceeded the specific binding commitments limiting subsidization, that Member can invoke the dispute settlement mechanism of the WTO and legally challenge the subsidies extended by the other WTO Member. For instance, Brazil has challenged the subsidies extended by the United States to its cotton farmers, and India is participating in this dispute as a third party.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) Recognising that the Uruguay Round results on curtailing trade-distorting domestic support and export subsidies would not meet the objective of establishing a fair, market-oriented agriculture trading system, and that the process of reform of trade in agriculture has to be continued, Article 20 of the Agreement on Agriculture provides for initiation of the negotiation of further commitments on support and protection from 1 January, 2000. The Doha Ministerial Declaration of 14 November, 2001 further elaborates that these negotiations shall aim to substantially reduce trade-distorting domestic support and phase out all forms of export subsidies. These negotiations are scheduled to conclude by 1 January, 2005. In order to ensure that the objectives of the Doha mandate for negotiations are fully met, India along with other WTO Members including Argentina, Brazil, China, Egypt, Indonesia, Philippines, South Africa and Zimbabwe, as Member of the G-20 alliance on agriculture have been pressing for substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic support and time bound elimination of export subsidies by the heavy subsidizing developed countries such as the United States and the European Union.

Contract farming

† 365. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to enact a law for contract farming under pressure from various companies;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have not consulted farmers' organization in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE IRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) An Expert Committee having representatives of farmers, -up by the Ministry of Agriculture on strengthening and developing of *ag*ricultural marketing in its report in June, 2001 made several *rec*ommendations for promotion cf an alternative marketing system in private and cooperative sector. The recommendations made by the Expert Committee were examined by an inter-Ministerial Task Force

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.